

Borough of Middleton.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances,

FOR THE YEAR

\*\* 1905. \*\*

Middleton :

John Bagot, Limited, Market Place.

# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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## THE MAYOR.

Mr. Councillor JAMES PARTINGTON, Chairman,

„ SAMUEL KENT, Vice-Chairman,

„ THOMAS COATES,

„ EDWARD JACKSON,

„ JOHN MATHER,

„ JOHN B. STELFOX,

„ WALTER THORP,

„ JOHN HY. WOOD.

FREDERICK JOHN WHEELDON, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

CHARLES HY. NORTON,  
Inspector of Nuisances.

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON,

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1905.

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*To the Chairman & Members of the Health Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Middleton for the year 1905.

I have acted as Deputy to the late Medical Officer of Health only since July, but I have gathered the available information from the records for the first half of the year, and have treated the year as a whole. I have re-calculated the estimates of population for each of the years in the last ten, and also the birth and death rates based on these new figures, in order that the comparison of the statistics may be more correct, and consequently of greater usefulness. 1

have also added three small diagrams which convey the information derived from these statistics in a more digestible form than do simple columns of figures.

So far as the general condition of Health and Sanitation in the Borough are concerned, the year 1905 was fairly satisfactory. The death-rate was the lowest, with one exception, of the last ten years, and there was a marked decrease in the number of cases of infectious disease; at the same time the infantile death-rate was very high—one quarter of the total deaths in the year occurred in children under 12 months—and has been exceeded only three times in the last ten years.

Much of the improvement is doubtless due to the constant efforts made to improve the Sanitary condition of the Borough, and as the process of altering the privies and other obsolete methods of dealing with sewage, to the water carriage system, is gradually nearing completion, and the Refuse Destructor will be in working order this year, and will do away with the necessity of tipping much very questionable material in certain parts of the Borough, we may expect a still further improvement in the future.

#### **BIRTH RATE.**

The number of Births registered during the year was 612—315 Boys and 297 Girls. Of these 16 were illegitimate. The rate per 1,000 per annum, 23, is lower than in any year of the last ten, except last year. In North Ward, there were 192, in South 219, and in West 201. The rates per 1,000 were 23.8, 23.1, and 22.3 respectively.

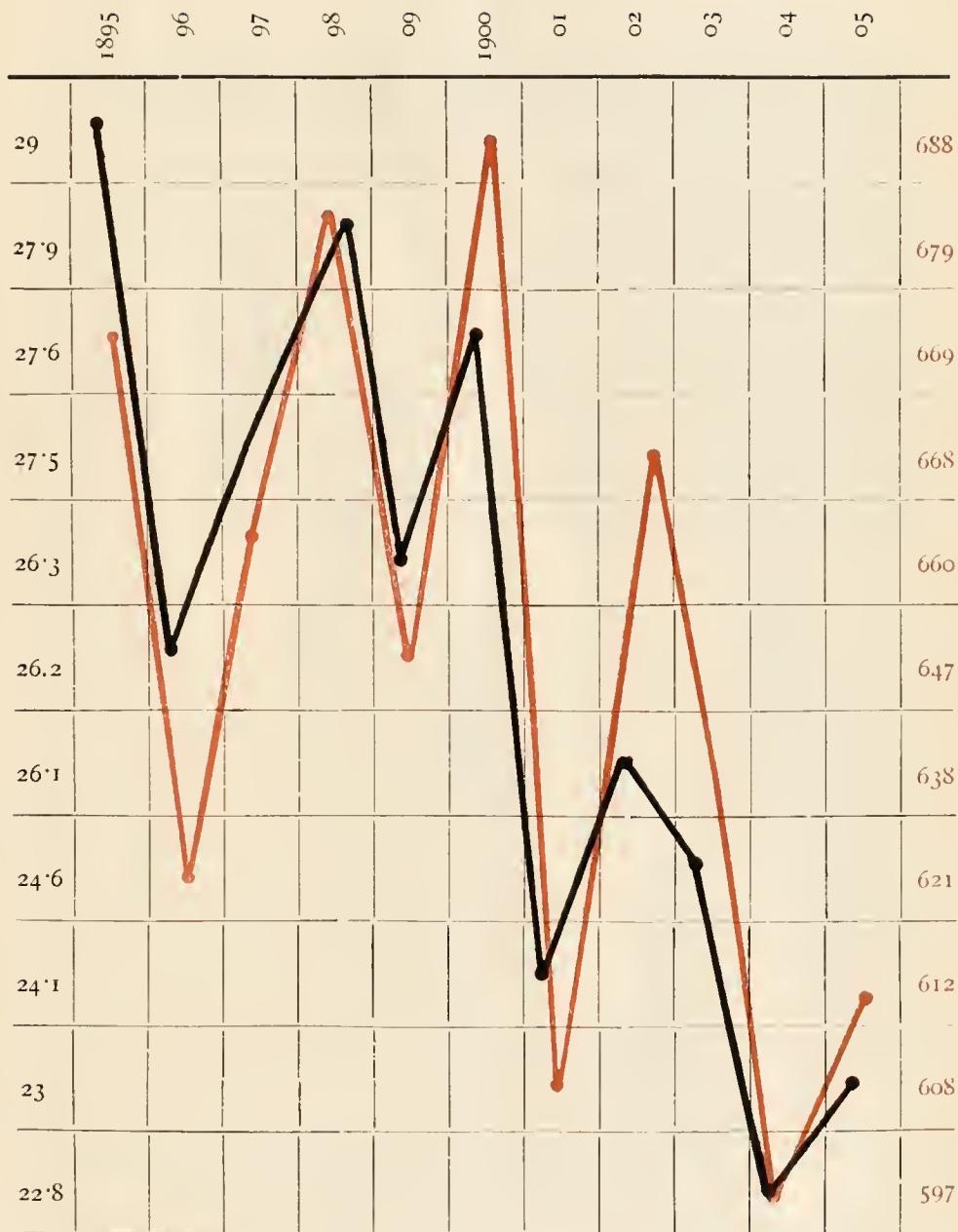


Diagram showing in black the birth-rate and in red the actual number of Births in each of the last eleven years,

**DEATH RATE.**

The Deaths registered numbered 407, but to this number must be added the deaths of those residents in the Borough who died in institutions outside. Of these there were 38—27 died in Oldham, 10 in Manchester, and one in Marland Hospital. One death of a resident in Chadderton, which occurred in Middleton must be subtracted. The nett number belonging to the District is therefore 444; 206 were males and 238 females. The corrected death-rate for the year is 16.7 per 1,000. The excess of births over deaths was 168—109 males and 59 females. There was no great excess of deaths in any one Ward over another, the numbers being:—North Ward 137, South 159, and West 148, and the rate per 1,000 being 17, 16.7, and 16.3 respectively.



Diagram showing in black the death-rate of all persons belonging to the District and in red of persons whose deaths were registered in the District for the past ten years.

**INFANTILE DEATH RATE.**

This is calculated upon the number of Births during the year, and is given as the number of deaths occurring in 1,000 children born in the year. It is very high, 178, though in 1904 it was higher still, 197. This year the rate is higher by 13 than the average of the past ten years. The rate in South Ward was lower than in the other two. The numbers were:—North, 35—182 per 1,000 births ; South, 37—169 per 1,000 ; and West, 37—184 per 1,000.

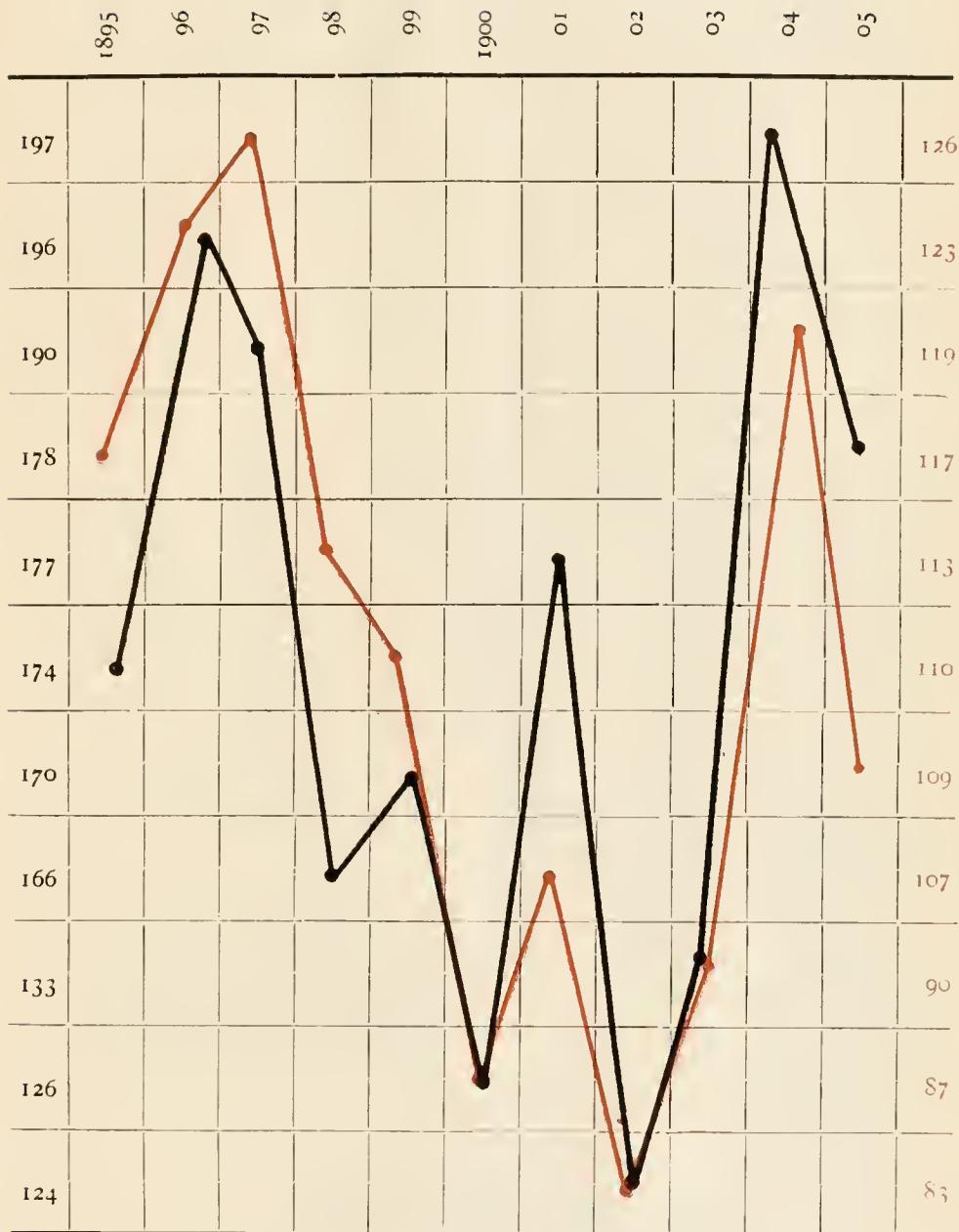


Diagram showing in red the actual number of deaths of children under one year old, and in black the rate per 1,000 children born, for the past eleven years.

Many causes combine to produce this great mortality, and a very interesting table has been added to the annual reports, by the Local Government Board—Table V—which particularises the causes of death of these infants. Premature Birth and congenital defects were responsible for 19 deaths, and most of these might have been avoided if the mothers would or could take greater care of themselves during the period of pregnancy. Twenty-six, or nearly one quarter of the whole number, were due to diarrhoeal diseases. These generally are the result of improper feeding, and also of the use of the feeding bottle with a long india-rubber tube attached, which it is impossible to keep clean.

Many of the cases of death from Convulsions are also due to improper feeding. A further and most important cause of this great mortality is the want of fresh and pure air, especially in the night time. Not only are the majority of the bedrooms carefully secured against the admission of fresh air, but the babies are allowed to sleep in the bed with the parents, instead of in a cot or cradle, and they must inevitably suffer by the daily repeated smothering process they undergo in such cases. There is also the grave risk that the suffocation of the baby may be complete, one such case occurred in the Borough in the year.

The only remedy for this deplorable state of affairs is to teach the mothers how to take care of themselves and their children, either by means of a practical and experienced woman, who would visit every case where a birth had taken place, or at least by a printed list of instructions being given to each person who registers a birth.

#### **ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.**

The Deaths from the Seven principal Zymotic Diseases including diarrhoea were 41, a rate of 1.5 per 1,000 and 9.2 per cent. of the whole of the deaths. From each disease the number were :—

Name of Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	13 .....	1
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	14 .....	6
Scarlet Fever.....	73 .....	2
Enteric .....	4 .....	1
Measles .....	— .....	6
Whooping Cough.....	— .....	13
Diarrhoea .....	— .....	12

The number of deaths from Diphtheria is high, nearly 50 per cent. of the cases. An epidemic of Whooping Cough at the beginning of the year and one of Measles at the end of the year, were responsible for 13 and 6 deaths respectively. In the different Wards the numbers were :—North Ward 8, South 22, West 11. Five of the deaths from Measles, five from Diphtheria, and seven from diarrhoea occurred in South Ward.

### **PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.**

Forty deaths from Phthisis and 16 from other Tubercular diseases, that is, 56, or 12.6 per cent. of the total deaths, occurred in the year. The rate per 1,000 was 2.1, and was considerably higher than last year and the year before. The numbers were :—

	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number .....	44 .....	41 .....	56
Rate per 1,000 .....	1.7 .....	1.5 .....	2.1

#### **All Tubercular Diseases.**

Number .....	30 .....	27 .....	40
Rate per 1,000.....	1.19 .....	1.02 .....	1.5

#### **Phthisis alone.**

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Were responsible for 105 deaths—23.6 per cent. of the whole number of deaths, as compared with 91 in 1904 and 87 in 1903. The rate per 1,000 was 3.9.

### HEART DISEASES.

There were 47 deaths from Heart Disease, as against 56 and 45 in 1904 and 1903. The rate per 1,000 was 1.7.

### INQUESTS.

28 inquests or inquiries were held by the Coroner in the year. Five were cases of suicide, eleven of accident, and the remainder cases of sudden death from Syncope or other natural cause.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND NOTIFICATION.

The total of Notifications of Infectious Disease in the year was 128, as compared with 573 in 1904, when there was a severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever, and 127 in 1903. The following table gives the number of cases of each disease for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905 for the whole Borough, and also for each Ward:—

Disease.	1903.	1904.			1905.			1903.			1904.			1905.		
		North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.
Smallpox .....	31	5	4	22	3	2	1	13	1	1	1	1	1	11		
Scarlet Fever .....	52	11	26	15	535	188	169	178	73	29	19	25				
Diphtheria and Membrn's Croup	17	4	6	7	6	2	1	3	14	12	2					
Erysipelas .....	24	12	6	6	22	5	6	11	22	6	8	8				
Enteric Fever .....	2		1	1	5	4	1		4	2		2				
Puerperal Fever ...	1			1	2		1	1	2		1	1				

### **SMALLPOX.**

Eleven of the thirteen cases occurred in West Ward, and all, except one, which was confluent and died, were very mild in type, and made rapid and complete recoveries. The disease appeared on four distinct occasions. The first outbreak was in January—three cases in the same house, one of which died. The second outbreak was in February and March—four cases in the same house. The third in July—one case in North Ward and two cases in a house at Rhodes, and from these two a third case arose in Tonge, from contact before the disease was discovered ; and the fourth, two cases in different houses. The prompt and efficient action taken to remove to hospital as soon as reported, to disinfect the house and bedding, to as far as possible isolate all who had been in contact with the patients, the careful tracing of all individuals, not members of the family, who might possibly have become infected, and the very general re-vaccination of these, account for the success with which the outbreaks have been kept down and limited to so few cases.

### **SCARLET FEVER.**

The number of cases reported was 73.45 in the first six months of the year, and 28 in the last. Twelve cases were treated in Hospital—7 from North Ward, 2 from South, and 3 from West.

### **DIPHTHERIA.**

The cases were all severe, as indicated by the large percentage of deaths. One case was treated in Hospital.

### **PUERPERAL FEVER.**

Two cases occurred, both of which died. In the second case the midwife who attended the case was advised not to attend any further case for three weeks, her clothing was disinfected, and those portions of her apparatus that could not be sterilised were burnt.

## MEASLES.

This is not notifiable in Middleton, and the number of cases was not considerable until December, when an outbreak in South Ward threatened to become serious, and as the centre of infection was evidently S. Gabriel's School, this was closed by order of the Sanitary Authority, with the result that the epidemic immediately died down, and on the school re-opening in January of this year there were no children absent owing to Measles. The school premises were thoroughly disinfected by means of sulphur dioxide.

## HOSPITAL.

The cases are still sent to the Hospital of the Rochdale Authority at Marland. All cases of Smallpox are sent there as soon as possible after notification, and cases of Scarlet Fever, Enteric, and Diphtheria, if for any reason they cannot be treated at home without great danger to the community. The table below gives the numbers treated there during the year, together with the numbers for 1903 and 1904:—

	1903.			1904.			1905.			1906.		
	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.
Smallpox .....	31	5	4	22	3	2	...	1	13	1	1	11
Scarlet Fever	3	...	3	...	47	18	16	13	12	7	2	3
Enteric Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...

## **BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

Arrangements are made by which practitioners in the Borough can send material from cases of Diphtheria, Phthisis and Enteric Fever to the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester for diagnostic purposes. During the year six specimens of blood from typhoid cases were sent and five of sputum from cases of Phthisis, and reports on each case were received in return.

## **DISINFECTION.**

Is carried out with great care. The bedding is treated in a Thresh Steam Disinfector, and the houses are treated with formalin vapour. An improvement would be the employment of a spraying apparatus, especially in the case of school premises closed on account of infectious disease, as the process of disinfection would be more complete.

## **SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.**

The conversion, to water closets, of the Privy Middens, has been carried out with a fair amount of activity during the year, an increased number having been altered over that of last year, but much remains to be done, and until the conversion of all these abominations has taken place there will always be great danger of serious outbreaks of disease, especially of Typhoid, Diphtheria, and Diarrhoea occurring in those parts of the district, where the greatest number of the old arrangements remain. The infantile death-rate is to a certain extent accounted for by the presence of these germ-distributing agencies.

There is still a considerable amount of old property in the Borough which is not in a satisfactory condition, and

during the year Mr. Norton has dealt with 24 houses having various defects from a sanitary point of view. Four back-to-back houses, two of which were practically cellar dwellings also, were closed until such alterations had been made as to render them fit for habitation.

Slaughter-houses have been regularly visited, and have been found satisfactory as regards cleanliness and ventilation. Five seizures of meat have been made, the whole of which meat was ordered to be destroyed. In three cases the whole carcase of the animal was condemned for the great amount of tubercular disease found in it, and besides these one other beast was slaughtered at the knacker's yard, and found to be in a most advanced state of disease.

All these four animals came out of one herd and off one of the best farms in the district, and that there is danger to the community arising from such conditions is shown by the results of the examination of the milk from this herd, which showed that there were tubercular bacilli in the milk, and that it was capable of producing tuberculosis in animals. In a town like Middleton, a large number of the infants are bottle-fed, and they are very susceptible to tuberculosis, and in cases where the milk is infective they have the very best means of acquiring the disease.

Much might be done to render tuberculosis less common in cattle. If the shippings were properly ventilated and kept carefully cleaned, and in a sanitary condition, there would be much less liability to the disease, and consequently less loss to the farmer and less danger to the community.

Much information as to the removal of nuisances and other sanitary work done in the year will be found in Mr. Norton's report.

Yours faithfully,

**FREDK. J. WHEELDON,**

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE 1.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.				
	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Number.		Rate.		Number.		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
1895.	23,362	669	29	117	174	454	19.6		31	505	21.3
1896.	23,662	621	26.2	123	196	474	20		26	452	18.8
1897.	23,962	660	27.5	126	190	429	17.9		22	416	17.1
1898.	24,262	679	27.9	113	166	396	16.3		21	471	19.1
1899.	24,562	647	26.3	110	170	439	17.8		21	424	17
1900.	24,862	688	27.6	87	126	384	15.4		21	493	19.5
1901.	25,178	608	24.1	107	177	453	17.9		21	403	15.7
1902.	25,580	668	26.1	83	124	394	15.4		9	438	16.9
1903.	25,910	638	24.6	90	133	399	15.4		39	469	17.8
1904.	26,240	597	22.8	119	197	430	16.3		39	469	17.8
Averages for years 1895-1904.	24,758	647	26.2	107	165	425	17.2		31.5	453	18.1
1935.	26,570	612	23	109	178	407	15.3	1	38	444	16.7

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area covered by water)

Total population at all ages 25,178  
Number of inhabited houses 5,692  
Average number of persons per house 4.4

At  
Census of  
1901.

TABLE II.

TABLE III.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.						No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox .....	13				5	7	1	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	11
Cholera .....	...										11	2			1
Diphtheria .....	13		9	4							1	1			
Membranous Croup	1		1	2	1	2	1	1.5	1	6	8	8			
Erysipelas .....	22	2	1	27	40	3	2			29	19	25	7	2	3
Scarlet Fever .....	73	1													
Typhus Fever .....	...														
Enteric Fever .....	4				1	2	1			2		2	1		
Relapsing Fever .....	...														
Continued Fever .....	...														
Puerperal Fever .....	2														
Plague .....															
Totals .....	128	3	38	47	12	26	2	38	41	49	9	4	14		

TABLE IV.  
**Causes of, and Ages at Death.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICTS AT SUBJOINED AGES.						DEATHS IN LOCALITIES.			
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1-5 years.	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-65 years	Over 65 years	North Ward	South Ward	West Ward
Small Pox .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles .....	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	5	—
Scarlet Fever .....	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	13	9	4	—	—	—	—	4	5	4
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	6	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	5	1
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Continued Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Influenza .....	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Diarœa .....	12	10	2	—	—	—	—	1	7	4
Enteritis .....	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	4
Puerperal Fever .....	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Erysipelas .....	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Septic Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis .....	40	—	—	1	10	29	—	11	15	14
Other Tubercular Disease .....	16	4	5	3	1	3	—	4	10	2
Cancer—Malignant Disease .....	19	—	—	1	—	16	2	8	6	5
Bronchitis .....	63	8	4	—	—	18	33	23	21	19
Pneumonia .....	39	8	8	2	—	20	1	13	16	10
Pleurisy .....	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver .....	5	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	2	1
Veneral Diseases .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Births .....	13	13	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	2
Heart Diseases .....	47	1	—	2	4	25	15	15	15	17
Accidents .....	11	14	2	—	—	3	5	1	4	6
Suicides .....	5	—	—	—	4	1	—	4	1	—
All other causes .....	123	45	9	7	2	32	28	36	35	52
Total .....	444	109	48	19	23	159	86	137	159	148

TABLE V

**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.**  
**Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total Deaths under One Year.										
	All Causes.	Certified	Uncertified	16	4	5	4	29	16	9	6
Under 1 Week.				1							
1-2 Weeks.											
2-3 Weeks.											
3-4 Weeks.											
Total under 1 Month.								1			
1-2 Months.											
2-3 Months.											
3-4 Months.											
1-2 Months.											
2-3 Months.											
3-4 Months.											
4-5 Months.											
5-6 Months.											
6-7 Months.								1			
7-8 Months.											
8-9 Months.											
9-10 Months.											
10-11 Months.											
11-12 Months.											
Total Deaths under One Year.									5	106	3

Smallpox .....  
 Chicken-pox .....  
 Measles .....  
 Scarlet Fever .....  
 Diphtheria : Croup .....  
 Whooping Cough .....  
 Diarrhoea, all forms ....  
 Enteritis (not Tuberculous) .....  
 Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh

Diarrhoeal Diseases. ....  
 12 2 3 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Population,  
Estimated to middle of 1905.  
<sup>26,570.</sup>

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 114.

## Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

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### INSPECTION.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Number of Prosecutions.
Factories .....	20	None	None
Workshops .....	106		
Total .....	126		

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### OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133).....	One.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (s. 5) :—	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors..	None.
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) : -	
Certificates granted during the year .....	None.
In use at the end of the year .....	One.
Homework :—	
Lists received .....	None.
Addresses of outworkers forwarded to other Authorities .....	None.
„ Received from other Authorities .....	None.
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year .....	82
Total number of workshops on Register .....	82

# Summary of Medical Officer's Report, 1905.

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## URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF MIDDLETON.

Area in Statute Acres .....	4,741
Population (Census) 1901 .....	25,178
Population (Estimated) 1905 .....	26,570

Name of Medical Officer of Health—

FREDERICK JOHN WHEELDON.

Salary, £100 per annum.

Births registered? Male, 315. Female, 297. Total 612.

Deaths registered? Male, 206. Female, 238. Total, 444.

Number of Illegitimate Births registered, 16.

Birth Rate, 23. Death Rate, 16.7.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births, 178.

Diseases prevalent? Whooping Cough, Measles.

Period? Beginning and end of year respectively.

What action taken? School closed.

Any Schools Closed? One

If so, for what disease? Measles.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?  
Agreement with County Borough of Rochdale.

Is it Joint or otherwise? Retaining fee £200 per annum,  
and 3s. per day per patient for maintenance, besides  
fees for medical attendance and ambulance charges.

Number of Beds available for the District? 40.

Number of cases treated? Smallpox 13, Diphtheria 1,  
Scarlet Fever 12, Enteric 1, total 27.

Deaths in Hospital? 1.

From what causes? Smallpox.

How is Disinfection carried out? Houses, Formaldehyde; Clothing, Bedding, etc., Steam.

Apparatus used? "Thresh."

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases Notified? 128.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, etc.) If so, what are they? No.

Has any arrangement been made for the "voluntary" notification of Phthisis? No.

Has any action been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Acts?" Yes.

How many houses condemned as unfit for human habitation, and how many closed or demolished? Twenty-four condemned. Four houses closed until such alterations were made as to render them fit for habitation. None demolished.

From where is the water supply obtained, and what is its condition? Is it subject to your inspection? Heywood and Middleton Water Board, Norden, Ashworth Moor. Good. No.

Is scavenging carried out satisfactorily? By sanitary authority or contract? Yes. By sanitary authority, except out-district of Slattocks, which is by contract.

How is the refuse disposed of? Tips. Excreta to farmers from Slattocks.

What is the character of drainage and the form of sewage disposal? Drainage is good. The International System and Bacteria Beds.

Canal boats (number inspected, etc.) 49.

What is the condition of the bakehouses? Good.

Slaughter-houses? Fair.

Lodging Houses? Are they registered? Good. Four.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected? Yes.

What is their condition? Bad.

Are they subject to regulations made under the Order of the Local Government Board? Yes.

What amount of air space in cubic feet is required for each cow? 400 in old cowsheds. 800 for new cowsheds.

Food unfit for human consumption. Amount seized? 2,235 lbs.

Any special report of Medical Officer of Health during the year? One on Measles.

Department of Inspector of Nuisances—

No. of Notices served? Formal Notices, P.H.A., 1875, 58; Provisional Orders, L.G.B., P.O.C.A., 367; Preliminary Notices, 299.

No. of Nuisances remedied? 886.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result? 2. One dismissed, one withdrawn.

Smoke—

No. of Observations? 78.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result? 16. Convictions in each case.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour? 5 minutes' black smoke in half-hour.

Has the Authority adopted—

(a) "The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890?" Yes.

(b) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890?" Yes.



# BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

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*Sanitary Department, Corporation St., Middleton.*

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended 31st December, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration my tenth annual report on the work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st December, 1905.

During the year under review there has again been a considerable increase in the work carried out by the department.

Fortunately the Borough has been free from any epidemic of infectious diseases. There has been an increase in the number of cases of smallpox. The thirteen cases reported represented five separate outbreaks, and only on two occasions did it get beyond the house where it first appeared, and in no outbreak did it get beyond the second house, which is very satisfactory indeed.

As in previous years, I have made several suggestions, which I venture to think in the interest of the public health well worthy of consideration, especially the suggestion referring to the testing of drains.

I have reported twenty-four houses under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, and whilst some of the dwellings have been made satisfactory, others have not had any attention from their owners. This ignoring of formal notices by persons in default is very wrong and illegal, and unless in future they take steps to comply with the notices it will be my unpleasant duty to summon them to the police court, to get a Magistrates' Order compelling them to do the work as specified in the notice. I hope this will not be necessary, as it is a complete waste of time both for your officials and also the persons summoned,

For the first time during the year 1905 I purchased samples of milk for the purpose of bacteriological examinations. Owing to these samples being taken four animals in an advanced stage of tuberculosis were slaughtered and destroyed, so as to prevent the milk they gave (in which the tubercle bacilli was found) and also the flesh being used as human food.

Milk being a very important article of food, should be obtained from animals which are free from disease and in a very healthy condition, otherwise the health of the persons consuming the milk may suffer.

In order to keep the cattle in as healthy a condition as possible, they should be housed under hygienic conditions; therefore it being essential to have the cattle free from tubercle disease it is necessary to admit as much sunlight and fresh air as possible, and the shippsons to be kept in a more cleanly condition than those in our Borough are kept at the present time.

Should you decide to adopt any of the suggestions made in this report I have no doubt that it will be for the benefit, comfort, and health of the inhabitants of our Borough.

### SUMMARY.

Preliminary notices served .....	299
Formal notices (P.H.A., 1875) .....	48
"      "      re black smoke .....	10
"      "      Provisional Order Confirmation Act, privies .....	104
"      "      "      Sanitary can closets and ashpits to W.C.'s and dry ashpits..	263
Smoke observations taken .....	78
Prosecutions re black smoke .....	16
"      "      nuisances .....	2
"      "      diseased, unsound, or unwholesome food...	1

„ Food and Drugs Acts (brandy) .....	1
Patients removed to Marland Hospital .....	27
Rooms disinfected in consequence of infectious disease..	367
Amount of diseased, unsound, or unwholesome food seized .....	lbs. 2,235
Samples of food taken .....	24
Houses reported under Housing of Working Classes Acts .....	24
Canal boats inspected.....	49
Visits to slaughter houses .....	722
„ common lodging houses .....	153
„ offensive trades .....	110
„ workshops .....	126
„ cases of infectious disease .....	513
„ dairies and cowsheds .....	71

**NUISANCES FOUND EXISTING THE ABATEMENT OF  
WHICH HAS NECESSITATED THE SERVING  
FORMAL OR PRELIMINARY NOTICES.**

Defective bedroom ceilings .....	2
„ window frames.....	2
„ ashpit door .....	1
„ drains .....	2
„ back yards .....	64
„ sanitary cans .....	19
„ rainwater pipes.....	10
„ trap .....	1
„ waste pipes .....	19
„ passages .....	2
„ eaves gutters .....	11
„ channels leading from waste pipes to drain...	6
„ waste water closet tipper .....	1
„ ashpits .....	3
„ ashpit roofs .....	1
„ dwelling house floors .....	11

“ cellar floors .....	3
“ dwelling house roofs .....	7
“ rainwater head .....	1
Choked rainwater pipes.....	2
“ drains .....	20
“ gullies .....	4
“ water closets .....	9
Untrapped drains .....	53
Damp bedrooms .....	8
“ house places .....	4
Insufficient closet accommodation .....	34
“ ashpit “ .....	40
Dangerous back yard wall .....	1
Sanitary can closets .....	242
Foul privies .....	82
“ open wet ashpits .....	85
Dangerous ashpits .....	1
Ashpits not furnished with proper doors and coverings..	7
Dirty dwelling houses .....	2
Keeping pigeons in back yard .....	2
Closets without doors.....	3
Dwelling houses without back doors .....	11
Slopstone waste pipes connected direct to untrapped drains .....	8
Sleeping rooms over privies or ashpits .....	3
Bell traps .....	2
Iron box traps .....	6
Gullies under slopstone waste pipes fixed inside dwel- ling house .....	1
No rainwater head .....	1
No channel from waste pipe to drain .....	3
Unpaved back yards .....	14
“ passages .....	2
Offensive manure heaps .....	3
Insufficient water supply .....	3
Unlimewashed workshop .....	1
Keeping poultry in cellar .....	1
Dangerous steps.....	1

Rainwater pipes connected to untrapped drains .....	2
,,    pipe discharging on to surface of unpaved passage .....	2
Rainwater pipe discharging into untrapped drain .....	1
Kitchen chimney discharging under eaves gutter .....	1
Waste pipes discharging on to back yard .....	4
No trap basin .....	1
Back-to-back houses .....	6
Drain not connected to sewer .....	1
No rainwater pipe .....	1

**NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED  
31ST DECEMBER, 1905.**

Privies converted to water closets .....	54
,,    ,,    waste water closets .....	129
,,    ,,    sanitary can closets .....	24
Sanitary can closets converted to water closets .....	108
,,    ,,    ,,    waste water closets .....	118
New water closets erected .....	34
,,    waste water closets erected .....	34
Additional closet accommodation provided .....	22
,,    ashpit    ,,    ,,    .....	15
Sufficient ashpits provided .....	13
Foul open wet ashpits converted to dry ashpits.....	110
Ashpits furnished with proper doors and coverings .....	6
Dangerous and dilapidated closets re-built .....	2
Drains trapped .....	66
Choked rainwater pipes opened .....	2
,,    drains opened .....	20
,,    waste water closets opened .....	10
Damp bedrooms made dry .....	3
,,    house place made dry.....	1
Dirty dwelling houses cleaned .....	2
Pigeons and Pigeon Cotes removed from back yards ..	3
Waste pipes disconnected from untrapped drains .....	4
Channel from waste pipe to drain provided .....	1

Dwelling houses provided with back doors .....	3
Privies removed from under sleeping rooms .....	3
Earthenware traps substituted for bell traps .....	2
"      "      "      iron box traps .....	3
Gully removed from inside dwelling house .....	1
Rainwater pipes provided .....	3
"      head provided .....	1
Offensive manure heaps removed.....	3
Sufficient water supply provided .....	2
Workshop limewashed .....	1
Dangerous and dilapidated ashpit re-built .....	1
Back-to-back houses made into through houses .....	2
Back yards paved or flagged .....	14
Bedroom ceilings repaired .....	2
Waste pipes      "      .....	11
Back yards      "      .....	18
Eaves gutters      "      .....	3
Channels from waste pipes to drain repaired .....	7
Rainwater pipes      "      .....	4
Waste water closet tipplers      "      .....	2
Ashpit roof      "      .....	1
Ashpit door      "      .....	1
Dwelling house roofs      "      .....	2
"      "      floor      "      .....	1
Sanitary cans provided .....	16
Defective drains made good .....	2

#### **NUISANCES REMAINING UNABATED DECEMBER**

**31ST, 1905.**

Houses without back doors .....	8
Foul privies not converted .....	16
Sanitary can closets not converted .....	74
Foul wet ash pits .....	13
Additional closet accommodation required .....	14
"      ash pit accommodation required .....	22
Unpaved back yards .....	4

Insufficient ashpits .....	3
Ashpits not furnished with proper doors and coverings..	2
Untrapped drains .....	20
Rainwater pipe discharging on to surface of passage ...	1
Slopstone waste pipes connected to drain .....	8
Keeping pigeons and erection of pigeon cotes in back yard .....	1
Keeping poultry in cellar under dwelling house .....	1
Chimney discharging under eaves gutter .....	1
No drain to dwelling house .....	1
Drain not connected to sewer .....	1
Iron box traps to drains .....	2
Dangerous back yard walls .....	1
Damp bedrooms .....	5
Closets not provided with proper doors .....	2
Back-to-back houses .....	6
Defective waste pipes .....	9
,,    back yards .....	24
,,    dwelling house floors .....	12
,,    cellar floors .....	3
,,    rainwater pipes .....	5
,,    passage .....	1
,,    dwelling house roofs .....	5
,,    bedroom ceilings .....	1
,,    eaves gutters .....	10
,,    rainwater pipes.....	2
,,        ,,    head .....	1

During the year ended 31st December, 1905, two hundred and ninety-nine preliminary notices have been served upon the persons by whose act, default, or sufferance nuisances on premises have been allowed to exist.

In forty-eight cases it was necessary to report the persons in default to your Committee, and ask for your sanction to serve Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, ordering them to abate the nuisances within a reasonable time after the service of such notices.

In five cases only were the Notices fully complied with, whilst in thirty-two cases the work required to be done as specified in such Notices was only partly carried out, and in ten cases the nuisances remained unabated.

The cause of so many Notices not being complied with or only partially complied with I attribute to the system of supervision of the work, which has to be carried out by the officials of another department, as contractors or others in whose hands the execution of the work is placed give notice to the officials of the other department when about to commence the work, and these officials order the work to be carried out in their own way.

This system entails a considerable amount of unnecessary work upon the Sanitary Department, as it is only by visiting and re-visiting the premises whereon the nuisances exist that information is obtained as to whether the work has been carried out or not.

It would, in my opinion, effect a great saving of time if those who receive instructions to execute the work were to inform the official who served the Notices when they are about to commence the work, and also when the work was completed, so that a proper record of abated nuisances might be kept.

In serving Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, it is necessary that the work required to be done should be stated, therefore I venture to suggest that the proper person to supervise the work is the official who has served the Notice, and who is acquainted with the works specified therein.

The same system is adopted with Notices served under the Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation Act (No. 5), 1901, with regard to the conversion of closets to the water-carriage system.

In two cases it was found necessary to summons the persons in default for not complying with the Formal Notices served upon them, but owing to having served the Notice upon and summoned the wrong person, and who only informed us of the mistake when the case came before the magistrates, the case was dismissed, and the nuisance being caused by the act of two parties, it was decided to withdraw the other summons.

Four hundred and nine privies and sanitary can closets have been converted to the water carriage system, against two hundred and forty-six for the year 1904, which, although showing a considerable increase, I hope to see again exceeded during the year 1906.

The privies which have been converted to the sanitary can system are situated in the out-districts where there are no available sewers.

Owing to the conversion of closets, a large number of cases have been found where there is not a sufficient number of closets in connection with the number of houses ; in these cases Notice is always served to erect such an additional number of closets, so that there shall be not less than one closet to every two houses.

There are also a large number of houses where sufficient ashpit accommodation has not been provided ; in some cases there are from four up to twelve houses to one ashpit. In these cases also Notices are served to provide sufficient ashpit accommodation.

A great many of the so-called dry ashpits are simply large holes, of various depths, in the ground, and enclosed by four walls, and left without doors or coverings, so that rainwater and other liquids are allowed to gain access to the contents, and often these so-called dry ashpits are equally as offensive as any of the old privy middens.

All ashpits constructed in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1875, should be furnished with proper doors and coverings, and if constructed in accordance with our Bye-Laws the floors should be covered with flags, and also be raised not less than three inches above the level of the adjoining ground.

Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1890, the expression ashpit includes any ash tub or other receptacle for the deposit of ashes.

It is essential that the contents of all ashpits should be kept dry, therefore householders should pour all slops or other liquid waste down the drains, and not in the ashpits, as is very often done.

A few back yards have been paved, flagged, or otherwise made good, and there are still a large number which are either unpaved or in a very defective condition, and require alteration, as it is impossible for the occupiers to keep them clean. Dr. Sergeant, Medical Officer of Health for the County of Lancaster, in his annual report for 1904, says, in speaking of the high infantile mortality, that public authorities may become contributory by allowing want of cleanliness of home surroundings to exist, such as unpaved yard surfaces, etc.

I respectfully beg to again suggest that in order to secure occupiers of houses from the dangers of sewer gas or drain air escaping into their dwellings, and also in securing property owners from inferior work that before any drain is considered fit for the passage of sewage it shall be subjected to a thorough testing by water.

It is often necessary in the interest of public health that old drains should be tested in order to see whether they are water-tight. Therefore, every drain ought to be provided with some means of ready access, such as inspection chambers, with tight-fitting covers and test junctions, being

inserted at certain points along the course of each drain. If this mode of constructing drains was carried out there would be no disturbance of the drain required in order to test them, whilst under the present system of construction it is necessary to excavate the ground and then break one or more pipes in order to obtain access to the drain in order to apply the test, and should the drain prove to be water-tight, considerable trouble and expense are incurred in again making the drain good, and owing to its disturbance it is doubtful whether the drain is not in a worse condition than before being disturbed. I therefore suggest that you take into consideration both the construction of the drains and also the advisability of there being some test applied before they are passed as being fit for the work which they have been constructed to perform.

Rainwater pipes still continue to be connected direct to the drains, so as to act both as rainwater pipe and ventilating shaft not only to the drains, but to the public sewers also. This system of trying to ventilate drains is, and has been for a long time, condemned by all authorities on sanitation, as the joints of rainwater pipes are not air-tight, and often situated near to bedroom windows, which when open allow the foul air to enter, and they also discharge close under the eaves, which again causes the gases to enter the dwellings by passing underneath the slates.

Again, during heavy rain storms, rainwater pipes are running full of water, so are fulfilling the duty they were intended to perform ; consequently foul gases are forced out from the sewers and drains at the openings on the ground level, which cause offensive smells.

All rainwater pipes should be disconnected from the drains by discharging either on to a trapped gully or on to a channel leading to a trapped gully.

Every drain should be provided with a proper ventilating shaft, specially erected for the purpose of discharging

the foul gases from the sewers and drains into the air at least three feet above the eaves of any dwelling house.

It has often been my unpleasant duty to have to draw the attention of occupiers of houses to the dirty condition of their dwellings, and although they are afterwards cleansed in many cases they are allowed to return to their dirty condition until such times as another visit is paid them.

A great improvement in the sanitary condition of many homes might be effected if occupiers would only take the trouble to keep their houses and the surroundings in a cleaner condition.

### **HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.**

During the year under review I reported to your Committee under the above Acts twenty-four houses which were in an insanitary condition.

Five of the houses reported were back-to-back houses, two were situated under other houses, and although above the level of the adjoining ground they were practically cellar dwellings ; they were dark, damp, and badly ventilated, which rendered them unfit for human habitation.

In the remaining cases, the houses were without back doors, the drainage was bad, the house and kitchen floor were defective, some being uncovered, others covered or part covered with bricks and broken flags, almost all being in an insanitary condition. The backyards were unpaved and in an unsatisfactory condition.

One of the houses condemned as unfit for human habitation is composed of two rooms only—one bed and one living room. There is no back door, no slopstone inside the house, and therefore no drainage system, and is in a very insanitary condition.

On consideration of the report by your committee, instructions were given that the owners of twenty-three of the houses should be served with Formal Notices under the above Acts, and that an application should be made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction so as to obtain a magistrates' order prohibiting the owner of one of the houses from again letting his house for habitation as a dwelling house.

In accordance with your instructions, Formal Notices were served by the Town Clerk upon the owners of the twenty-three houses, with the result that the two cellars and one back-to-back house were closed by arrangement with the owners, two back-to-back houses were made into through houses, and one house has been provided with a back door ; the house and kitchen floors have been made good, and such other alterations made as to make it fit for human habitation. The remainder of the houses are still in the same insanitary condition as when reported. I took proceedings in the Police Court against the owner of one back-to-back house, and after hearing the evidence of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and myself, the magistrates granted the closing order as asked for, prohibiting the use of the house for human habitation, and the owner to pay the costs of the case.

The reason proceedings were taken against this one owner without first serving a Formal Notice was owing to the house having been condemned on a previous occasion, and the owner on that occasion giving an undertaking to your Committee to close the house and not to again let it as a dwelling-house. However, after keeping it closed for some time he again let it for habitation. Therefore, he (the owner) having broken faith with your committee, it was decided to at once proceed against him in the Police Court, with the above result.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The under-mentioned is a tabular statement of the number of cases of infectious disease which have been reported during the year ended 31st December, 1905:—

By comparing the number of cases reported during the year 1905 and those reported during 1904, you will notice that there has been a decrease of four hundred and eighty-five cases. This is due to the reduction in the number of cases of scarlet fever, of which five hundred and forty-two were reported in 1904 and seventy-three during 1905, which I venture to think very satisfactory.

There has been an increase of ten cases in the number of persons suffering from smallpox reported during 1905 as against the year 1904.

The first case of smallpox was reported on the 16th January, 1905. The patient was a young man employed in a grocer's shop in Chadderton, where the disease was prevalent at the time, and it was undoubtedly at his place of employment where he contracted the disease.

Unfortunately, the patient had infected his mother and the servant before his removal to hospital, both of whom were aged persons. The attack proved fatal to the servant. The disease was kept confined to this one house, which was situated in a condensed part of the Borough.

During the month of February, two further cases were reported, the patients being a brother and sister. In these cases the disease was caught in Oldham.

In March two other cases were reported, the patients being sisters of the other two patients, and lived in the same house. Therefore they got the infection from them. The disease was again confined to the one house.

In July another case was reported from the top of Middleton. In this case no idea of where the disease had been contracted could be traced, but there were no further cases followed this one.

Another case was reported during July. This time the patient resided at Rhodes. There were two persons

infected by this patient—one a sister living in the same house, the other a young man living in Thornley Street, Middleton, who had been to the patient's house before it was known what disease she was suffering from. The disease was again for the time-being stamped out at the third case.

During the month of November another case of smallpox was reported, the patient living in Lime Street. The probable source of the infection was again at Oldham.

Another case, which occurred in Marsh Row, was traced to the last-named case, both patients having several times met and been in each other's company in a club situated in Booth Street. I visited this club, and with the sanction of the committee had the whole of the rooms disinfected.

The committee and members of the club rendered every possible assistance to stamp out the disease in the two last cases.

All the cases of smallpox were removed to hospital as promptly as possible, and the houses and clothing of the patients disinfected the same day or night if possible. All persons who had been in contact with the patients and could be found were visited and kept under observation for fourteen days.

I have visited and investigated the whole of the notified cases of infectious disease, and reported the result to the Medical Officer of Health, and when considered necessary have removed the patients to Marland Hospital. When the patients have remained at home, the persons in charge have been instructed as to the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the disease's spreading, and in cases of scarlet fever have left a copy of printed instructions signed by the Medical Officer of Health.

I have very much pleasure in reporting that greater care has been exercised by parents and others having charge of patients to prevent the spread of these infectious diseases.

In cases where children residing in the same house have been attending school, the schoolmasters have been notified not to allow them to again attend school until a further notice has been received to say that the patient has recovered and the house disinfected.

Twenty-five patients have been removed to Marland Hospital, where they were detained until they were free from disease, and in a fit condition to again mix with the public.

All patients speak very highly of the kind treatment they received from the hospital staff during their stay in that institution.

I hereby wish to again acknowledge the valuable services rendered by Mr. Alfred Booth, who has willingly turned out at any time when required to carry out his dangerous and unpleasant duty of disinfecting the houses, bedding, clothing, etc., of persons suffering from infectious disease. I also wish to acknowledge the services of the drivers of the Rochdale Corporation's infectious disease ambulance for the prompt way they have at all times turned out to remove patients from Middleton to Marland Hospital.

#### **STEAM DISINFECTOR.**

The steam disinfector has again proved its utility in disinfecting the bedding and clothing of persons who have suffered from sickness of an infectious character, and has in my opinion played an important part in preventing the spread of the various diseases through clothing, etc., which have been in contact with the patients. In the smallpox cases has it proved its worth, as although there have been cases directly traceable to previous cases the infection has undoubtedly been by actual contact with the sufferer, and not through contact with any article of bedding, clothing, etc., which had passed through the disinfector.

In no case has any injury to articles disinfected been reported, which shows the care and attention of the man in charge of this important part of the work of prevention of infectious disease.

Below is a statement of the number and kind of articles which have been treated in the disinfecter :—

Articles, disinfected.	No. of articles.	Articles disinfected.	No. of articles
Mattresses.....	16	Carpets .....	28
Beds.....	127	Overcoats .....	1
Bolsters .....	87	Pinafore .....	1
Pillows .....	191	Frocks .....	3
Blankets .....	126	Jackets .....	10
Sheets .....	74	Nightdresses .....	10
Quilts.....	124	Pairs Stays .....	1
Rugs.....	12	,, Drawers ...	1
Bedeovers.....	11	,, Stockings ..	2
Shawls.....	14	,, Braces .....	1
Shirts .....	7	,, Trousers ..	14
Coats .....	10	Scarf .....	1
Vests.....	8	Pillow Cases .....	2
Cushions.....	4	Chemise .....	1
Handkerchiefs.....	3		—
Cape .....	1	Total.....	891

### **SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

Seven hundred and twenty-two visits have been paid to the above, which were found clean, and with the exception of three cases the meat was found to be of good quality, and therefore fit for the food of man.

### **DISEASED, UNSOUND, OR UNWHOLESOME FOOD.**

During the year under review I made five seizures of meat intended for the food of man, and not being fit for

such food. Four of the seizures were from butchers, three being in slaughter-houses and one from a shop.

In three of the cases I was called in by the owners to inspect the meat, which I found in each case to be unfit for human food, and the meat was at once surrendered.

In the other case the butcher had bought an animal from a local farmer, had slaughtered it, and dressed it ready for the shop, when I visited the slaughter-house and saw the carcase hung up. I inspected it, and found the animal had suffered from tuberculosis, and that the internal organs were missing, and that as far as possible all trace of the animal having suffered from any disease had been removed.

Owing to Dr. Graham, the Medical Officer of Health, being seriously ill at the time, and unable to perform his duties, I called in Dr. Henry, Medical Officer of Health for the County Borough of Rochdale, and also Mr. Schofield, Veterinary Surgeon, both of whom found that the animal was in an advanced state of tuberculosis, and in a very emaciated condition, and totally unfit for human food. I seized the carcase, and reported the case to your Committee, who ordered me to prosecute the owner, which I did, and the Magistrates inflicted a penalty of £3 and costs.

In the other case the farmer had the animal slaughtered by arrangement, and this case I shall deal with more fully in tubercle in milk.

In each of the foregoing cases I obtained a Magistrates' Order condemning the carcases and ordering their destruction, so as to prevent them being used as human food. The destruction was carried out by burning at the Gasworks.

#### **TUBERCULOSIS IN MILK.**

Owing to the diseased condition of the animal referred to under diseased meat, I purchased on the 10th May one

pint of milk from the farmer from whom the animal had been purchased, and forwarded the same to Professor Delepine for a bacteriological examination.

Professor Delepine reported that he had the milk tested by inoculation, and that it had caused tubercle. The result of the examination was reported to a special meeting of the Health Committee, when it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and myself to deal with as deemed necessary, in order to obtain a milk supply free from this disease.

The Sub-Committee decided to have all the cattle, which numbered forty-four, on this farm examined for tubercle of the udder, by a veterinary surgeon, consequently I got Mr. Schofield, of Oldham, to examine them, which he did on the following day.

The result of the examination was that four of the animals were isolated as being suspected of suffering from tubercle. Five further samples of milk were then taken, one from each cow suspected and one from the bulk of the remaining cattle. These samples I then took to the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, for examination, one of which was reported to have caused tubercle. The animal from which the sample which had caused tubercle was then taken to a knackers' yard at Bury and slaughtered, and was examined by Dr. Wheeldon, who had been appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and myself, when the lungs, pleura, diaphragm, liver, and stomach were found to be affected with tubercle, but no trace of the disease was found in the udder. A portion of the udder and lymphatic glands was sent to the Laboratory, Manchester, and was reported to be free from disease.

Previous to obtaining the result of the five samples one of the animals was slaughtered by arrangement with the owners, and on examination was found to be diseased in lungs, pleura, liver, and glands.

After having dealt with the afore-mentioned animals, I was called in to a slaughter-house to inspect an animal which had come from the same farm. This animal was very far advanced with tubercular disease, all the internal organs being very much affected.

In each of the foregoing cases I seized the carcases, and obtained Magistrates' Orders for their destruction, so as to prevent them being used as human food, and all were destroyed by burning.

I have very much pleasure in reporting that every assistance was given us by the owner of the cattle in order to obtain the freedom from disease of this milk supply. Not having any known legal or local Act with which to deal with a milk supply of this character, we were placed at a great disadvantage, but owing to action of the owner, as above stated, we were able to carry out this important work in a satisfactory manner.

Owing to enquiries made through the "Sanitary Record," I was informed by Mr. Leonard Foster, of Ampthill, Beds., to whom I am extremely obliged, that the case might have been dealt with under Article 2 of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1899, which prescribes that in the case of a cow such disease of the udder as shall be certified by a veterinary surgeon to be tubercular shall be included in Article 15 of Order of 1885; so that should any further cases of a like character occur in our district we shall be able to deal with them under this Order.

## REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

Month.	No. empt'd	No. pails	Cost of pail	Cost per Month	No. of loads	Cost per Priv's ashes	Cost per month	Total cost per month	
								£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jan.....	10,638	186	1.012	44 17 0	81	423	2 8	67 18 3	112 5 3
Feb. ....	9,538	126	.805	32 0 0	126	434	2 5	67 2 5	99 2 6
March ..	12,132	202	.915	46 5 0	89	600	3 0½	46 5 0	151 0 6
April ...	10,032	162	.873	36 10 2	103	393	3 0¾	75 19 3	112 9 5
May ...	13,487	213	.823	46 5 0	71	604	3 2.245	107 11 4	153 16 4
June ...	10,687	169	.795	35 9 2	62	444	3 1.74	79 11 3	115 0 5
July ...	10,813	169	.821	37 0 0	57	479	3 1.793	84 16 5	121 16 5
Aug. ....	12,891	207	.825	45 1 10	60	550	3 4.205	101 14 7	146 16 5
Sept. ...	10,484	163	.847	37 0 0	32	490	3 4.814	88 15 5	125 15 5
Oct. ....	10,409	161	.853	37 0 0	37	497	3 1.515	83 9 5	120 9 5
Nov. ....	12,982	200	.832	45 0 0	10	616	3 1.345	97 9 0	142 9 0
Dec. ...	10,313	164	.820	35 5 0	—	472	2 11.537	68 8 2	103 13 2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total...	134,606	2122		477 13 2	728	6008		969 0 6	1504 14 2

Total cost for year ended 31st Dec., 1905—£1,504 14 2

.. .. .. 1904—£1,691 19 7

Decrease ..... £187 5 5

Total cost of emptying pails, 1905 .....

.. .. .. 1904 .....

£627 12 0

Decrease ..... £149 18 10

Total cost of removing refuse from privy

middens and dry ashpits, 1905 .....

.. .. .. 1904 .....

£964 17 7

Increase ..... £5 2 11

Cost per load privies, ashes, and pails, 1905..... 3s. 5d.

.. .. .. 1904..... 3s. 4d.

Increase ..... 0 0½

Total 1905 ..... Pails emptied ..... 134,606

.. 1904 ..... .. ..... 154,745

Decrease ..... 20,139

„	1905	Pails loads .....	2,122
„	1904	„ .....	2,749
<hr/>			
		Decrease .....	627
„	1905	Privies loads .....	728
„	1904	„ .....	1,792
<hr/>			
		Decrease .....	1,064
„	1905	Dry ashes loads.....	6,008
„	1904	„ .....	5,425
<hr/>			
		Increase .....	583

During the year under review the removal of nightsoil and ashes from the districts of Slattocks and Bowlee has again been carried out by contract, but on and after the 31st March, 1905, it is intended that the execution of the work in Bowlee shall be carried out by the Corporation, except the emptying of pails, which will be emptied by the contractor for No. 1 District on and after the date named.

In January, 1905, it was decided that the emptying of pails and the disposal of the refuse should be transferred from the Watch Committee to the Health Committee, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider and report as to the best means of collecting and disposing of the pail excreta.

The Sub-Committee met on several occasions, and acting on their report, the Health Committee decided to divide the Borough (except Slattocks and Bowlee) into two districts and advertise for persons to undertake the work, the parties selected to provide one horse and man each, and the Corporation to provide barrels and an additional man to go with each barrel, the contractor to provide all tips. This arrangement relieved the Corporation of the difficulty of finding tips for the disposal of the contents of pails.

Since the taking over by the Health Committee of this work, the collection and disposal of pail refuse has been

carried out by four men with two horses and two barrels, whilst previously six men, with three horses and three barrels had been employed on this work, and on occasions eight men had been employed. Therefore a great saving in expense has been made, and the work has for the greater part of the time been satisfactorily performed. Owing to the reduction in the number of men, horses, and barrels for the first few weeks there were numerous complaints of sanitary cans being full, and on one occasion, owing to the laxity of the contractor, I put on extra men and charged him with the cost. After this the complaints began to grow less, and now owing to the energy displayed by the contractors it is very rare any complaints of pails being full are received at this office.

In December, it was decided to take over the removal of ashes, and since then this work has been supervised by this department. It would greatly reduce the trouble of collecting and disposing of the dry ashes if your Committee would insist that where new property is being erected or where ashpits are being converted that some uniformity in the kind of ashpit provided should be insisted upon. At the present property owners appear to provide various kinds of receptacles to act in the capacity of ashpits. This makes it very difficult indeed to empty the ashpits in a systematic manner.

Very many property owners appear to be under the opinion that any kind of old tub or wood box, so long as it is of little or no expense, is sufficient to act as an ashpit. This is a mistake, and unless they provide suitable receptacles, furnished with proper covers, they are liable to be dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

I would also take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the conduct of some tenants, who will persist in throwing slops and other offensive matter into what were intended to be dry ashpits, and to suggest that public notice

be given, either by placard, handbill, or in the local newspapers that any person creating a nuisance in this manner will be proceeded against in the Police Court.

#### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS' ORDER.**

During the year seventy-one visits have been paid to the dairies and cowsheds, under the Regulations made by the Local Authority under the above Order.

The cowsheds in many instances are in a dilapidated condition, whilst the drainage in the best of shippsons can only be referred to as bad, and requires in every case to be thoroughly overhauled in order to bring it up to something like reasonable requirements. The lighting and ventilating are also in bad condition ; in fact, some shippsons are very dark, and where some attempt has been made to provide for the admission of fresh air the inlet is often choked up with hay or other material by the farmer, with the intention of keeping the cattle warm.

The limewashing of cowsheds is not attended to as often as is necessary to keep the places clean and sweet ; in fact, the general cleanliness of the shippsons does not appear to be given that attention which is so necessary to keep the animals in a healthy condition.

The condition of many animals can only be described as filthy, owing to being allowed to lie in their dung, and no attempt being made to wash their hind quarters, consequently owing to the movement of the animals and the rubbing of the milkers' shoulders and head against the animals' hind quarters, some portion of this dirt is bound to fall into the milk pail. This dirt, it is often said, is removed by straining the milk through a fine sieve.

Milk being a very important article of food, especially of invalids and infants, should be obtained under the clean-

liest of conditions. Therefore the cowkeeper should keep his animals as clean as possible.

By referring to another part of my report you will see that during the year we had the milk supply from one farm which was contaminated with tubercular disease. There are some people who argue that this disease cannot be communicated from cattle to man, but I think almost everybody will agree that we cannot expect to have a healthy population which is fed on diseased food, also that when people purchase and pay the price demanded for an article they have a right to expect and obtain food which is sound, wholesome, and free from disease. It is necessary that cowkeepers should give more attention to the cleanliness of the animals, the limewashing and cleansing of the shippings, the drainage should be in good condition, and seeing that all authorities are agreed that plenty of sunlight and a good supply of fresh air are the greatest enemies of the tubercular disease, it is necessary that the cowsheds should be well lighted and ventilated.

#### **SHOP HOURS' ACTS.**

Numerous visits have been paid to the shops where young persons are employed. In several cases young persons were found to be employed contrary to the provisions of the above Acts, as no notices referring to the provisions of the Acts were exhibited in a conspicuous place.

In each case the employer was cautioned against a repetition of the offence, and supplied with a copy of the necessary notice.

#### **SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS ACT.**

In all cases where females are employed in shops, seats have been provided, as required by the above Act.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

During the year one common lodging house has been registered, thus increasing the number to four. One hundred and fifty-three visits have been paid to the lodging houses, which were found to be kept clean and free from over-crowding and infectious disease.

### FOUL RIVERS.

The rivers which flow through our Borough are still very offensive, owing to the amount of pollution which takes place in districts situated higher up the streams than we are. The River Wince is still the worst offender. At times it has the appearance of an open sewer, with a large volume of crude sewage passing down it, and the smell from this sewage is so noxious that the people who are so unfortunate as to reside on its banks are constantly complaining of the stench arising from the stream.

Whilst agreeing with the necessity of keeping our streams as free as possible from pollution, I think that those who have this duty to carry out can hardly be considered to be acting in a fair manner by forcing our Town Council to spend such large amounts of money in sewerage and sewage disposal works in order to purify our streams whilst they allow other authorities higher up these same streams to pollute them to such an extent as to create a serious nuisance in our Borough. Therefore, failing action by the Board who should carry out this work, I suggest that such action as you may deem necessary be taken against the offenders in order to free our district from this abominable nuisance.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Twenty-four samples of food have been taken under the above Acts. In each case the sample was divided into three parts, one of which was forwarded to the Public Analyst

for analysis. There were fifteen samples of milk, three of butter, one of cheese, three brandy, one mustard, and one of pepper. With one exception, the samples were reported as genuine.

The analyst reported that one of the samples, which was purchased as brandy, on analysis consisted of whisky of low quality, and that it was 10.3 degrees below the statutory limit for brandy or whisky, and therefore had had an excessive amount of water added. The person from whom the sample was purchased was summoned, and fined £2 and costs.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1899, it is necessary that every tin or other receptacle containing separated or skimmed milk should bear a label clearly visible to the purchaser on which the words "Machine Skimmed Milk" or "Skimmed Milk," as the case may require, must be inscribed in large and legible type. Any person selling milk contrary to the provisions of this section of the Act is liable to a penalty of ten pounds. Many milk dealers think it sufficient if the large can in the cart is labelled, but it is necessary that the smaller cans in which the milk is conveyed to the purchaser should be labelled also.

It is also necessary the name and address of the vendor should be legibly inscribed in some conspicuous place on the vehicle from which the milk is being sold.

#### SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Name of Firm.	Address.	Observations.	Average time per observation	
			black smoke was emitted.	No. of
Gorton and Halliday ...	Park Lane .....	4	3	24.5
E. Kempsey and Co. ....	Townley Street .....	5	4	19.6
Rich. Ashworth & Sons	Spring Vale .....	4	1	0.5

Name of Firm.	Address.	No. of Observations.	Average time per observation	
			black	smoke was emitted.
Hy. Cocker and Co.....	Wood Street .....	2	0	0
Mather, Ormesher, & Co.....	Man. New Road ....	4	4	19.5
British Cotton & Wool Dyers' Association...	Kid Clough .....	3	1	41.66
Irkdale Bleaching Co. .	Cheetham Street ....	7	6	46.42
Parker, Lord and Co. ..	Oldham Road .....	2	5	46.5
Albany Spinning Co....	Old Hall Street .....	5	2	23.6
Mid. and Tonge Spng. Co. (No. 3).....	Dane Street .....	3	8	52.33
Don Mill Co. ....	Don Street .....	4	8	24
Soudan Mill Co. ....	Off Don Street .....	1	2	45
R. K. Lee and Co. .....	Green Street .....	3	10	41
Thomas Partington ....	Green Street .....	2	6	17.5
Townley Spinning Co..	Spring Vale .....	4	7	22.75
Tonge Vale Sp'g. Co.	Tonge Vale .....	3	5	7.33
Mid. Corporation Elec. Works.....	Townley Street .....	3	2	46.33
Calico Printers' Assoc.	Rhodes .....	2	23	23
Irk Spinning Co. ....	Oldham Road .....	4	3	5
Rhodes Manufact. Co.	Rhodes .....	1	7	9
Joseph Wood .....	Mills Hill Road .....	1	13	52
Rex Mill Co. ....	Don Street .....	2	5	0
Boarshaw Raising and Finishing Co. ....	Boarshaw Road.....	2	1	8.5
Cromer Mill Co. ....	Tonge Vale .....	1	2	13
Eagle Raising and Finishing Co. ....	Kemp Street .....	1	1	50
Samuel Lawton & Sons	Cross Street .....	1	0	0
Middleton and Tonge and Times Cotton Mill Companies.....	Dane Street .....	4	23	36.25

Seventy-eight smoke observations have been taken, and the limit has been exceeded on twenty-six occasion. In sixteen cases the persons in default were summoned ; in fourteen cases they were fined, and ordered to pay costs ; in two cases the defendants were ordered to abate the nuisance and to pay costs ; in nine cases Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, were ordered to be served, and in one case no action was taken.

In July last the period of observation was reduced from sixty to thirty minutes, and the limit of time allowed for the emission of black smoke was reduced from ten minutes per hour to five minutes in the half-hour.

Since the reduction the limit has been exceeded on fifteen occasions, for which nine firms have been summoned, and five have had Formal Notices served upon them to abate the nuisance. The reason for more firms being summoned than have exceeded the limit is that on several occasions two firms were joint owners of one chimney, consequently both firms were proceeded against for the one observation. The average time black smoke was emitted per observation is 6 minutes and 13.935 seconds.

#### **FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.**

There are eighty-two workshops registered in the Borough, to which one hundred and twenty-six visits have been paid, which, with two exceptions, have been found to be carried on in conformity with the above Act. One factory was reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories for not having sufficient closet accommodation, and one workshop was reported for not having an abstract of the above Act exhibited.

One new bakehouse was condemned and closed on the Factory Inspector's report as being unsuited for the business intended to be carried on.

The closets of five factories have been converted from sanitary can closets to the water carriage system. The occupier of one workshop was cautioned about not lime-washing as required by the above Act. The limewashing has since been attended to.

There is one registered underground bakehouse in the Borough, which is carried on in accordance with the Act of 1901.

One new bakehouse has been occupied during the year which has been constructed in the centre of other rooms, consequently the place is very dark, and artificial light has to be resorted to when work is carried on, and in order to provide ventilation an electric fan has had to be fixed. As the said bakehouse can hardly be said to meet with the requirements of the Act of 1901, I would suggest that in order to prevent the construction of unsuitable workshops all plans of places intended to be used as workshops of any kind should be submitted to your Committee.

#### **CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACTS.**

There has not been any outbreak of diseases under the above Acts. One case of supposed anthrax was reported by the Police, but on the animal being examined by the Veterinary Surgeon it was found to be free from disease.

Regulations are still in force in the Borough respecting the removal of swine, for which licenses are often applied for and granted authorising removal.

#### **CANAL BOATS ACTS.**

During the year forty-nine canal boats have been inspected, and with one exception the captains of the various boats produced the certificates when asked for.

In four cases the cabin roofs were found to be in a defective condition, which allowed water to gain access to the sleeping places, causing the beds to be damp. One defective water cask was also found on board. In each case where there was an infringement of the Acts a Notice was served upon the owner, who carried out the necessary work and made the boats satisfactory.

The boats were registered for two hundred and forty-two persons, and were occupied by ninety-eight men, sixteen women, and twelve children. The cabins were clean and free from overcrowding and infectious disease.

No. of Month. boats.	No. of Month. boats.
Jan. 3	July 6 3 children on board
Feb. 11 2 children on board	Aug. 0
Mar. 2 1 child on board	Sept. 0
April 5 2 children on board	Oct. 8 5 children on board
May 6 2 children on board	Nov. 0
June 0	Dec. 8

#### MARKET RECEIPTS, 1905.

Month.	Receipts. £ s. d.	No. of stalls.	Cost of Sweeping. £ s. d.
January .....	6 11 9 .....	172 .....	0 11 4
February .....	7 15 1 .....	179 .....	0 8 11
March .....	6 8 9 .....	165 .....	0 9 1
April .....	7 1 8 .....	188 .....	0 9 5
May .....	9 6 5 .....	226 .....	0 11 3
June .....	7 0 0 .....	154 .....	0 9 4
July .....	9 14 2 .....	254 .....	0 12 7
August .....	36 6 6 .....	185 .....	0 7 2
September .....	5 15 2 .....	145 .....	0 9 4
October .....	9 14 7 .....	251 .....	0 11 3
November .....	7 12 6 .....	188 .....	0 8 9
December .....	8 10 7 .....	212 .....	0 9 7
Total.....	£121 17 2	2319	£5 18 0

	£	s.	d.
Receipts, 1905 .....	121	17	2
,,    1904 .....	106	0	3
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	£15	16	9
Cost of Sweeping, 1905 .....	5	18	0
,,    ,,    1904 .....	5	17	1
	<hr/>		
Increase .....	£0	0	11
Number of Stalls, 1905.....	2,319		
,,    ,,    1904.....	2,131		
	<hr/>		
Increase .....		188	

The increased amount of money drawn from the Market Ground is no doubt due to the increased number of stallholders attending the weekly Friday night market.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**CHARLES HENRY NORTON,**

Sanitary Inspector.

